

## **How does WSDOT determine equity in grant distribution?**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) uses many definitions of equity in the distribution of grant funds. For the consolidated competitive grant programs, WSDOT reports equity using a number of parameters. As examples:

**A. Geography**

- Is funding provided throughout the state?
- Is there funding in each geographical area that applied for funding?

**B. Need**

- Is the absence of funding taken into consideration when awarding grant funds?
- In the Rural Mobility – Revenue Equity grant program, a transit agency must have collected less than 80% of the state's per capita sales tax to qualify.

**C. Population**

- Are funds provided to agencies based on the number of persons living in their service area?
- Do areas with denser populations get more money than areas with sparser populations?
- The Federal Transit Administration provides urban and small urban transit agencies Section 5307 Formula Grants based on population and population density. The rural public transportation grants, FTA Section 5311, are distributed to Washington State based on the rural population and are awarded through a competitive process by WSDOT for rural public transportation services.

**D. Expenditures of services provided**

- Does the distribution methodology or formula consider the costs of providing a certain type of service?
- The formula for Paratransit/Special Needs funds for transit uses the expenses of demand response and route deviation to determine the pro rated share of the funds.

**E. Services Provide**

- The Federal Government uses the number of passenger miles as part of their equation for the distribution of the FTA 5307 funds to urban areas.

**F. Type of governmental unit**

- The federal government requires Tribal Governments have access to grant programs.